

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 7, 2003

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 21, 2003

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2003–04 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1427

Introduced by Assembly Member Maddox

February 21, 2003

An act relating to biological solids.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1427, as amended, Maddox. Biosolids: study.

The existing Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act generally requires the California regional water quality control boards to prescribe waste discharge requirements for individual waste discharges. The act requires the State Water Resources Control Board or a regional board, upon receipt of an application for waste discharge requirements for discharges of dewatered, treated, or chemically fixed sewage sludge and other biological solids, to prescribe general waste discharge requirements for those sludges and solids, as specified.

The existing California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, administered by the California Integrated Waste Management Board, establishes an integrated waste management program, including the regulation of solid waste disposal. Existing law authorizes the board to approve the use of compost, cocompost, and chemically fixed sewage sludge for use as solid waste landfill cover materials or for use as extenders for currently used cover material, if the board makes a specified evaluation.

The bill would require the California Environmental Protection Agency, *and its boards, offices, and departments*, in consultation with the Department of Food and Agriculture, the regulated industry, local jurisdictions, and other stakeholders, to conduct a study, utilizing existing and appropriate scientific data, *existing research, and specified documents* to determine the feasibility of establishing a statewide policy on biosolids treatment, disposal, and recycling. The bill would require this study to also examine alternative technologies for the treatment, disposal, and recycling of biosolids and identify areas, jurisdictions, and other markets that can utilize treated biosolids.

The bill would, on or before ~~June 30~~, *December 31*, 2004, require the agency to report the findings developed under that study to the Legislature.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares that
2 biosolids are primarily organic solids left from municipal
3 wastewater treatment processes.

4 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature to promote cooperation
5 among *state agencies and* local governments on matters relating
6 to the treatment, disposal, and recycling of biosolids. This
7 cooperation is necessary to protect the public health and the
8 environment. ~~Contradictory statewide approaches to the~~
9 ~~treatment, disposal, and recycling of biosolids are not conducive~~
10 ~~to the proper management and~~ *Fragmented and inconsistent*
11 *regulatory approaches among local jurisdictions regarding the*
12 *treatment, disposal, and recycling of biosolids hamper the*
13 *development and implementation of a coordinated statewide*
14 *approach to the proper management and oversight of biosolids.*

15 ~~SEC. 2. (a)~~

16 (c) *The Legislature further finds that the potential effects of*
17 *biosolids recycling have been analyzed in numerous studies in the*
18 *past.*

19 (d) (1) The California Environmental Protection Agency, *and*
20 *its boards, offices, and departments*, in consultation with the
21 Department of Food an Agriculture, the regulated industry, local
22 jurisdictions, and other stakeholders, shall conduct a study,

utilizing existing and appropriate scientific data, to determine the feasibility of establishing a statewide policy on biosolids treatment, disposal, and recycling. ~~This study~~

(2) *Whenever possible, the study shall review and utilize existing appropriate biosolids research literature and scientific data as a basis for the policy development.*

(3) *The study shall utilize, but not be limited to, the analysis, scientific information, and the technical support documents generated during the development of the federal Environmental Protection Agency's biosolids regulations that are found in Part 503 (commencing with Section 503.1) of Subchapter N of Chapter I of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations and the scientific information and documents from the study recently conducted by the State Water Resources Control Board that was mandated by Section 13274 of the Water Code, as the basis for the statewide biosolids policy.*

(4) *The study shall also examine alternative technologies for the treatment, disposal, and recycling of biosolids, and identify areas, jurisdictions, and other markets that can utilize treated biosolids.*

~~(b) On or before June 30,~~

(e) *On or before December 31, 2004, the California Environmental Protection Agency shall report the findings under the study described in subdivision (a) (d) to the Legislature.*